U.S. Assistance to Combat Malaria, T.B. and AIDS

5097. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US President agreed to combat Malaria, T.B. and AIDS jointly;

(b) if so, the grants announced by USA for Research for this purpose; and

(c) the planning made to utilise the grant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Spread of Fluorosis in Delhi

5098. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA:
SHRI C. RAMCHANDRAIAH:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi is in the grip of fluorosis, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 24th March, 2000;

(b) if so, the cause of sudden spurt of this disease;

(c) the details of the study, if any, made by Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the measures taken to check the disease early?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (c) Presence of flouride in the drinking water in Nationl Capital Territory of Delhi (NTCD) was reported through a public notice issued by Central Ground Water Authority on November 16, 1998. NTCD is now recognised as an endemic State for fluorosis based on high fluoroide content in drinking water reported by the Central Ground Water Board and Delhi Jal Board. The NTCD is short of 180 million gallons of water day. Due to this the residents have dug tub wells hand/ hand pumps in their premises and tapped the underground aquifer and this water has high fluoride levels. Most areas of NTCD have fluoride, the highest being in the North-West and Western Zones.

(d) The Government of India launched the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission under which emphasis is laid on drinking water quality through removal of excess fluoride, arsenic and other pollutants in water. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Government by providing Central assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). The State Government have been delegated powers to plan, sanction and implement their individual rural water Supply schemes under the ARWSP.

As per the guidelines for implementation of Rural Water Supply Programme, upto 20% of the funds under ARWSP can be utilised for sub-mission activities designed to address water quality and sustainability issues. Further, powers to sanction sub-mission projects have been delegated to the State with effect from 1.4.1998. The Department of Rural Development has also been assistin the States for strengthening the infrastructure for testing of water quality. As per this, a sophisticated testing equipment (ION meter) is proposed for NCT of Delhi to enable the State to expedite testing of sources for possible fluoride contamination.

AIDS by medical apparatus

5099. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the medical apparatus used by dentists is one of the factors for spread of AIDS; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The National AIDS Control Organisation is conducting training programmes for all dentists on infection control practices including disinfection and sterilization. A manual has been developed on Guidelines for ""Hospital infection control—standard operating procedure" and this has been distributed to all medical institutes including Dental colleges. A chapter on proper disinfection of dental equipment is included in this manual.

Use of incinerators to dispose of hospital waste

5100. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 202, given in the Rajya Sabha in the 25.2.2000 and state: